Skorpiovenator

Skorpiovenator ("scorpion hunter") is a genus of <u>abelisaurid</u> theropod <u>dinosaur</u> from the <u>Late Cretaceous</u> (Cenomanian to <u>Turonian</u>) <u>Huincul Formation</u> of <u>Argentina</u>. It is one of the most complete and informative abelisaurids yet known, described from a nearly complete and articulated skeleton.^[1]

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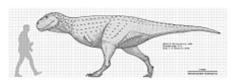
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Description



Size of *Skorpiovenator* compared to a human

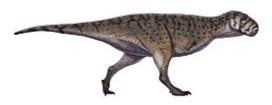
The preserved length of the excavated *Skorpiovenator* skeleton from the premaxilla to the 12th caudal vertebra is 4.35 m (14.3 ft). [2] It was estimated to have grown up to 6 m (19.7 ft) in

length.^[1] In 2010, <u>Gregory S. Paul</u> gave larger estimations of 7.5 m (24.6 ft) and 1.67 tonnes (1.84 short tons).^[3] In 2016, a similar size to the original estimate at 6.2 m (20.3 ft) has been estimated.^[4] It had short, stubby, near-useless arms, but strong legs with powerful thighs and sturdy shins over which its large body was balanced.^[5]

Skull

*Skorpiovenator'*s skull was short, stout and covered in the ridges, furrows, tubercles and bumpy nodules that are scattered over the heads of most <u>abelisaurid</u> <u>theropods</u>. It is craniocaudally short, similar to *Carnotaurus*, and is shorter and

Skorpiovenator Temporal range: Cenomanian ~95 Ma Pre€ € OS D C P T J K PgN Cast of the holotype specimen Scientific classification Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Clade: Dinosauria Clade: Saurischia Clade: Theropoda Family: †Abelisauridae Clade: †Brachyrostra Genus: †Skorpiovenator Canale et al. 2008 Type species Skorpiovenator bustingorryi Canale et al. 2008



Restoration

deeper than the skulls of <u>Abelisaurus</u> and <u>Majungasaurus</u>. Notably, the maxilla and lacrimal of *Skorpiovenator* are wider than in the corresponding bones of the remaining abelisaurids.^[1]

Skorpiovenator had 19 maxillary teeth, which is more than any other known abelisaurid. The shape of the crowns of the teeth is similar to other abelisaurids, and exhibit enamel wrinkles and marginal serrations.^[1]

Discovery and naming



Fossil under preparation

The type specimen was described and named by Canale, Scanferla, Agnolin, and Novas in 2009 (though the paper was released as an advanced publication online in 2008). The name *Skorpiovenator bustingorryi* is derived from the Greek and Latin for "scorpion hunter," due to the abundant scorpions present at the dig site, and the specific name honors Manuel Bustingorry, who owned the farm where the specimen was found.^[2] The describers have defined a new name <u>Brachyrostra</u> for a <u>clade</u>, to which *Skorpiovenator* belonged.^[2]

The type species, *Skorpiovenator bustingorryi*, is known from a single, nearly complete skeleton (MMCH-PV 48K) missing only

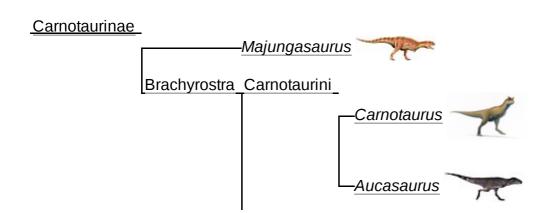
sections of the tail and the majority of the forelimbs. The specimen was recovered from the lower part of the <u>Huincul Formation</u> in <u>Patagonia</u>, dating to the late <u>Cenomanian</u> stage, about 95 million years ago. It would have lived alongside other carnivorous dinosaurs such as the carcharodontosaurid <u>Mapusaurus</u> and another abelisaurid, <u>Ilokelesia</u>.^[2] The remains are deposited in the <u>Ernesto Bachmann Paleontological Museum</u> of Villa El Chocón, Patagonia, Argentina.

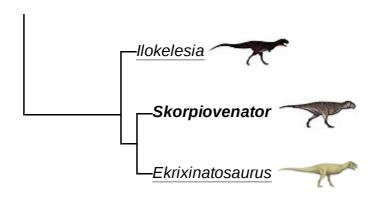
Classification

In 2008, Canale *et al.* published a phylogenetic analysis focusing on the South American carnotaurines. In their results, they found that all South American forms (including *Skorpiovenator*) grouped together as a subclade of Carnotaurinae, which they named **Brachyrostra**, meaning "short snouts". They defined the <u>clade</u> Brachyrostra as "all the abelisaurids more closely related to *Carnotaurus sastrei* than to *Majungasaurus crenatissimus*."^[1]



Skull





See also

Timeline of ceratosaur research

References

- 1. Canale, J.I., Scanferla, C.A., Agnolin, F., and Novas, F.E. (2008). "New carnivorous dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous of NW Patagonia and the evolution of abelisaurid theropods." *Naturwissenschaften*. doi:10.1007/s00114-008-0487-4 (https://doi.org/10.1007%2Fs00114-008-0487-4).
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